

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
506 Fletcher Trust Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
May 28, 1936

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

With reference to my teletype to the Bureau dated May 28, 1936, having to do with the Black Legion, and a statement appearing in the Indianapolis Times, Indianapolis, Indiana, issue of May 28, 1936, stating that the Black Legion was being investigated in Indianapolis by U. S. Department of Justice agents at the request of Detroit authorities, permit me to attach hereto for your information the news item and a kindred item over a Detroit date line of May 28 (UP).

It is my understanding that this Bureau Office is not to interest itself in the Black Legion, or its activities, unless its activities are in violation of a Federal Statute over which this Bureau has basic investigative jurisdiction, and that this office is not to interest itself in making investigations even when the facts indicate Federal Statutes over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction, until the information has been submitted to the Bureau, and the Bureau thereafter issued instructions to make an investigation.

In other words, no activity is to be engaged in by this office in the absence of Bureau instructions.

Very truly yours,

*John A. Dowd*  
JOHN A. DOWD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

2 enclosures

JAD:LW

AIR MAIL

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JUN 3 1936

61-7392-40  
MAY 29 1936  
TOLSON  
TAMM  
THOMAS  
WATSON

## U. S. Reply to Detroit Plea for Aid Is Delivered to McCrea.

### 12 MEN ARE SOUGHT

### 15 to 18 States Involved in Movement, Belief of Authorities.

By United Press

DETROIT, May 28.—The Federal government replied today to an invitation to enter the investigation of the night-riding, terroristic society, the Black Legion.

Prosecuting Attorney Duncan C. McCrea pressed his search for 12 fugitive Legionnaires, whose arrests may bolster his charge that the cult accused of responsibility for killings and floggings is operating actively in 15 to 18 states and particularly in New York City and Chicago.

The Federal government's reply was delivered by Harold H. Reinecke, head of the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, whose chief is Atty. Gen. Homer S. Cummings, whom McCrea petitioned yesterday for Federal intervention. Reinecke refused to hint as to the nature of the reply, saying that McCrea was the person to make it public.

As he delivered the reply there came evidence from Lima, O., that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had looked into the Black Legion as far back as 18 months ago.

#### Interviewed by G-Man

William H. Smith, an Ohio farmer who was kidnaped and beaten by Legionnaires on Sept. 29, 1934, said he was interviewed by a Department of Justice agent who told him: "You'll be called upon to tell your story in court at the proper time."

With a mass of evidence already compiled McCrea intimated that the 12 men being sought were of great importance to his investigation.

At Jackson, a grand jury resumed its investigation of Legion activities there. The jury already had issued warrants for the arrest of 25 men accused of kidnaping and flogging Harley Smith who was forced to join the Legion and beaten when he failed to attend one of its meetings.

#### Grand Jury Probes Planned

Atty. Gen. David H. Crowley having initiated a one-man grand jury inquiry in Wayne County (Detroit and environs) returned to Lansing to plan similar proceedings throughout Michigan.

In petitioning Atty. Gen. Cummings for Federal aid yesterday, McCrea said.

"I know definitely that the Black Legion is operating in 15 to 18 states. I know that it is very active in the cities of New York and Chicago. I have reason to believe that the activities of the Legion have included the hauling of bodies across state boundary lines, which is a Federal offense."

He told Cummings that his evidence showed that "many serious crimes have been committed in states other than Michigan."

"Of course, I am unable to investigate these," he said, "and for that reason I have sought the aid of the Department of Justice."

#### 12 Other Hunted

McCrea's investigators and six members of the Detroit Homicide Squad were searching for the 12 fugitive Legionnaires.

At Jackson, Smith, the Black Legion victim, threw a new light on the organization's techniques. He said:

"Two neighbors invited me to a party about a year ago. I went and pretty soon we got to a place where there were three men in robes. They called themselves Black Knights. One man held a gun against me and they gave me the oath. I was scared. I can't remember the oath, but they did give me a bullet and one of them said, 'The next one we give you will be out of a gun.'"

#### Lashed by Group, Report

"I went to one meeting after that. When they told me there was going to be another meeting, I said I couldn't go to it. Well, about last November some of them came around to my house and said, 'Your superior officer wants to talk to you.' I went out to their car. They pushed me into the back seat. They drove about a mile. They told me to get out of the car. They took me into a house and tied my hands. Somebody said, 'What's the verdict—guilty or not guilty?' They voted 'guilty'—and somebody said, 'six lashes.'"

"They pulled my shirt off. They gave me six lashes. It felt like a blacksnake whip. It hurt. Then they put me back in the car and we drove a while. We were near my house."

"They took off the blindfold and told me to walk home. I went to one meeting after that—in December. I've been a nervous wreck ever since."

61-7398-40

# 'Legion' Messages Found at Apartments

Continued

"We will recognize a man who has suffered a shock (or a blow) and who has been driven to the edge of his mind and has gone on through the night and day to find it is done."

"The chief has given me a message."

"Follow commands we are not five up. We must make the world of the devil and cross-bones and terror of the world."

"We must and will make the law in our hands before August."

Please sign up now!

A lieutenant will call at your house soon. (At night in robe) Give your membership to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him.

Major 220

BLACK SECTION

In the name of the Lord  
evil I will stand up  
I will show out my strength and will  
by the name of the Black Section. Never  
I betray its secrets or its ex-  
Death is the reward for  
the breaking of a law or the

SECRET

Black Section



INDIANAPOLIS TIMES  
5-28-36

# **G-MEN PROBE 'BLACK LEGION'**

## **HERE**

**ALLEGED TERROR  
NOTES ARE LEFT  
AT LOCAL HOMES**

## Messages Promise Calls Will Be Made 'at Night in Robe.'

### LIKE MICHIGAN NOTES

## Indiana Infested With Ar- dent Members, Says Detroit Prosecutor.

(Copyright, 1936, by The Indian-  
apolis Times)

Notes purporting to be from "The Black Legion" were found last night in Indianapolis and today were being investigated by United States Department of Justice agents at the request of Detroit authorities.

They were found in two near-North Side apartments, stuck in doorknobs. The notes promised the occupants that representatives of "The Legion" would call "at night in robe" to accept their memberships.

Duncan MacCrea, Wayne County, Mich., prosecutor, about whom centers the main probe of the organization's known activities, told The Indianapolis Times today that the notes bore marked characteristics of known Legion documents now in possession of authorities.

"We know definitely," he said, "that Legion members do appear at night in robes both to recruit new members and to force delinquent members to attend meetings.

### "Sound Authentic," He Says

"The Indianapolis notes sound authentic to me, and I am asking Department of Justice agents, assigned to me by Atty. Gen. Homer Cummings for this investigation, to immediately probe the Indianapolis angle.

"I have already had several confidential communications from the Indianapolis area, which lead me to believe that the Legion is organized there and has been responsible for at least one outrage.

"There is no question in my mind, or in the minds of my associates, but that Indiana is infested with ardent Black Legion members."

The notes, found yesterday afternoon, each consisted of two pieces of paper. One was a salmon pink bond paper, six by four inches. On it was typewritten what was interpreted to be a membership blank. It read:

"Black Legion Membership."  
There followed blank lines for age, name, address, both city and state.

### Is Penalty

Under that appeared:

"Oath:

"In the name of God and the Devil I will stand up to the Black Legion. I will follow my orders and will abide (misspelled) by the laws of the Black Legion. Never shall I betray its secrets to its ex-members.

"Death is the penalty for the breaking of a law or its oath."

This was followed on one note by the designation "611X7" and a blank preceded the word "Rank." The other note bore the number "610X7."

Last of all, at the bottom, appeared "Black Legion-611X7." The other note's number was "610X7."

### Message Is Typed

Inside was a piece of cheap white paper, about the same size, upon which was typed the following message:

"Comrade:

"We must reorganize quickly. We suffered a shock that has broke our stride but we will get back to our feet and rush on through the night and show them how (apparently, typing error) it is done.

"The Chief has given the order:

"Fellow comrades we must not give up. We must make the symbol of the skull and cross-bone the terror of the world.

"We must and will take the law in our own hands by August."

"Please sign up now!

"A Lieutenant will call at your home soon (at night in robe). Give your membership to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him.

"MAJOR 29K1."

### Imprint of Stamp

On each document was the imprint of a stamp in purple ink. The design had 16 points connected by seven circles. Indianapolis rubber stamp manufacturers said they believed no such stamp was manufactured and suggested that it may have been cut from cork.

The imprint, they said, did not appear to have been made by rubber.

The two pieces of paper were folded lengthwise and fastened by what appeared to be gummed paper tape similar to that used in groceries.

The occupant of an apartment at which one of the notes was left denied all knowledge of it. He said

he knew of no one who would have sent it either in earnest or jest.

At the same time, Lima, O., authorities disclosed that records of the Black Legion organization indicated that the organization went by various names in the different states and were designated as "Red Leg" in parts of Indiana, and "The Black Brigade" in West Virginia.

From Fort Wayne came information that an organization there, believed to be closely connected with "The Black Legion" was called "The Black Snakes."

O.P.Y.

POST OFFICE BOX 2118  
DETROIT - MICHIGAN  
May 27, 1936

Special Agent in Charge  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

A local newspaper writer called this writer's attention to a dispatch from Washington, D. C., which advised that United States Representative Clara Hoffman, Allegan, Michigan, had received a threatening letter which was mailed from Benton Harbor, Michigan, May 4, 1936.

This letter was apparently written by a crank and evidently has some connection with the Black Legion investigation now being conducted by State authorities in the State of Michigan.

An attempt was made to reach Congressman Hoffman at his home in Allegan, Michigan, but this writer was advised that he is presently in the City of Washington, D. C.

You are requested to contact this Congressman at once and ascertain the circumstances surrounding the receipt of this letter and whether or not it is the type of threatening letter over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

For your information, the Detroit office has received instructions from the Bureau that no investigation is to be conducted relative to "The Black Legion" without a specific authorization from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

H. H. Reipacker  
Special Agent in Charge

JDC/rmm  
CC - Bureau

AIR MAIL SPECIAL DELIVERY

JUN 19 1936

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

61-7378-41  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAY 29 1936 P.M.  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ORIGINAL FILED IN 9-1843-1

## U.S. Considers Joining Inquiry Cummings to Confer with G-Man Hoover

(From the Free Press Bureau)  
WASHINGTON, May 27—Attorney General Homer S. Cummings will reach a decision within 24 hours on sending G-men into Michigan to investigate the Black Legion, his office announced here tonight.

A telegram was received from Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, of Wayne County, asking that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation be sent into the state. Cummings will confer tomorrow with J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, and announce his decision as to whether Federal matters are involved.

Before he received the telegram, Cummings announced that he had been following the investigation of the Black Legion through the newspapers, and that as far as he could see no Federal law was involved.

Rep. Clare E. Hoffman, of Allegan, today made public a letter in which he was threatened with death because of his opposition to the Townsend movement in Michigan. The letter was signed "K. K. K." and was forwarded from Benton Harbor. The envelope in

which it was forwarded carried the letterhead of the "Twin City Renovating Co., P. O. Box 401, Benton Harbor, Mich." Across the letterhead was scribbled the words "out of business." The Postoffice Department will attempt to trace the sender.

Hoffman has also received an abusive letter from a man signing himself "John Anderson, Aurora, Ill." The Representative was not inclined to take the threats seriously, asserting that he had received numerous abusive letters since he denounced the Townsend Plan. He could see no connection between this letter and the Black Legion.

Most of the contents of the letter mailed from Benton Harbor were unprintable, and the same applied to the letter from Illinois. The Benton Harbor letter spoke of a recent meeting at which Hoffman had been "condemned as a traitor and not fit to represent a dog house."

New evidence that the Black Legion is no new organization in Michigan was indicated by a statement from Rep. George A. Dondero, of Royal Oak, who represents the Seventeenth District. Dondero said that in 1932 and again in the 1934 elections it had been intimated that he could win easily if he would join the "Bullet Club." He said the invitations were always extended in a "kidding way," and that he did not think much about them until the disclosures following the Poole murder.

As far as could be learned today, no other Michigan Congressman has been threatened or asked to join the legion.



185  
Do not work through the  
Sheriff of Kitsap Co he is too  
closely allied.

RECEIVED  
JAN 1 1936  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE

JAN 1 2 56 PM 1936

FILES SECTION

RECEIVED

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.  
May 28, 1936.

HAM:LCB

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWARDS

This is to advise that there were received today in the Identification Division, fingerprint cards from the Michigan State Police, Jackson, Michigan, on the following individuals:

Clarence Ernest, their #J-5326  
Glen Ernest, (no number given)  
Allen Mason, their #J-5327  
Ray C. Ernest, their #J-5328

On the reverse side of the fingerprint card on Ray C. Ernest, there is the following notation:

"This man is Brigadier General of  
Black Legion"

The date of the arrest of these individuals is indicated as May 26, 1936, and the charge is given as kidnaping and felonious assault. The criminal specialty on all is noted as "Black Legion". All of the above-mentioned fingerprint cards were searched through the files of this Bureau without effecting an identification.

Respectfully,

*H. A. Martin*  
H. A. Martin.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JUN 2 1936

61-7398-42  
JUN 2 1936  
HOWARD  
TAMM

Mr. Nathan...  
Mr. Tolson...  
Mr. E. A. Tamm...  
Chief Clerk...  
Mr. Clegg...  
Mr. Coffey...  
Mr. Edwards...  
Mr. Egan...  
Mr. Foxworth...  
Mr. Glavin...  
Mr. Ladd...  
Mr. Nichols...  
Mr. Rosen...  
Mr. Tracy...  
Miss Gandy...

EFE:VTL  
61-7398-43

June 5, 1936

RECORDED

Mr. George E. Hopkins,  
Clear Creek, West Virginia.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 27, 1936, together with enclosed newspaper clipping, furnishing information relative to one Ernst, who in 1922 was in Alliance, Ohio allegedly as an organizer for the Ku-Klux Klan. It is noted that you furnished this information as an assistance to this Bureau in connection with its investigation of the activities of the Black Legion.

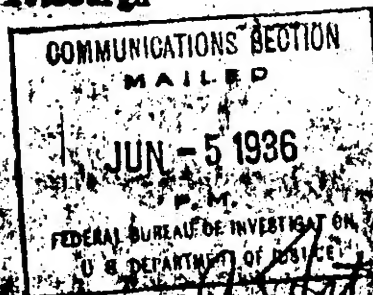
For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. Inasmuch as the activities of the Black Legion do not appear to be in violation of any such Federal law, no action is being taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in furnishing this matter for my attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

cc-Pittsburgh



Cedar Creek  
May 27 - 36, W.D. MS

Ack. 6/5/36  
cc: Pittsburg  
E.E.

To

Mr J. Edgar Hoover

Washington D.C.

Dear Sir

In reading the enclosed article from the  
Beckley newspaper. My mind reverted back  
to I think 1922. I was in Alliance Ohio  
and met a man by the name of  
ALHST. Instead of Ernest. he was  
organiser for the Ku Klux Klan, and the  
district had a large membership. He  
later was sent to jail for confiscating  
funds for flowers for dead members and  
charging some to the Organisation.  
He was formerly from Cocomo. Ind.  
In sending this information it appealed to me  
there might be more than a Co. machine in  
the name and occupation. If this is any use  
you use it with my compliments to our  
part of our Government Institution who  
deserves plenty of Credit for past service  
rendered.

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
61-7398-43  
JUN 8 1936  
MAY 29 1936  
Very truly yours  
George E. Hopkins

Member of  
Alliance Ohio AMCP



*see from  
of course  
in  
handwritten name  
of Ernest*

HERALD, BECKLEY, W.

## Hooded Legion Found To Have Unit of Women

(Continued From Page One)

Father Charles E. Coughlin's original Shrine of the Little Flower on March 17, was on the list of unexplained fires, his investigators are checking for a possible connection with Black Legion terrorism.

### Many Angles To Probe

That is just one of a number of angles of our investigation," McCrea said. "Royal Oak (the site of the Shrine) is out of our jurisdiction, but if we uncover any new evidence it will be turned over to authorities there."

There were rumors in Royal Oak that investigation of the explosion of a black powder bomb in the basement of Father Coughlin's home several years ago also would be reopened.

Father Coughlin said he had heard nothing of renewed investigation of the Shrine fire or the bombing and declined to discuss any possible connection between them and Black Legion activities.

Effinger, who appealed to the prosecutor in Adrian, Mich., last summer for the release of three men arrested with weapons and black robes bearing the Black Legion's skull and cross bone insignia, said he knew nothing about the killing in Detroit or elsewhere by the Black Legion, and declared the organization deplores anything of that nature.

The questioning of Lupp followed discovery in Ernest's home of a letter signed "Art Lupp, B. G." In which Ernest was asked "how are you getting along with your

## HOODED LEGION FOUND TO HAVE UNIT OF WOMEN

61-7396-43

Recruiting Agent Discloses Existence Of Auxiliary Under Questioning

Membership Of Six Millions Claimed

Prison Guard Says Group Plans Overthrow Of Government

DETROIT, Mich. (AP)—A black-robed auxiliary of the Black Legion, charged by investigators with seeking political power through terrorism, was disclosed today, Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea announced, by A. L. Lupp, sr., recruiting officer for the black-robed order.

McCrea said he was seeking to learn the size of the auxiliary and whether members are required to vote as instructed by their superiors as is the case, he said, with the Black Legion.

V. F. Effinger, whom McCrea has sought for questioning, asserted in Lima, O., today that the Black Legion has more than 6,000,000 members, and that "it will go right ahead promoting the best interests of America and American citizens, despite the unfortunate affair in Detroit."

Investigators here received without immediate comment a report from Columbus, O., that a witness before a legislative committee had testified that he was a member of the Black Legion and that a great many of its members had been placed as foremen on work (FERA).

The witness, George Armstrong, of Lima, was quoted as saying members of the Black Legion got the jobs on relief work.

### Organization Ambitious

That the Black Legion ambitions were not dropped in Jackson today by a Michigan penitentiary guard after his arraignment on a charge of kidnapping and felonious assault in the flogging of a relief worker, State Police Captain William Hansen said.

Between you and me," Hansen quoted Ray Ernest, the accused guard, as saying to Trooper Howard Sellers "we are going to over-

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

TELETYPE

FBI INDIANAPOLIS 5-28-36 11-38 AM CST FC

DIRECTOR

PHONE. INDIANAPOLIS TIMES ISSUE MAY TWENTYEIGHTH CARRIES STORY THAT NOTES PURPORTING TO BE FROM BLACK LEGION WERE FOUND LAST NIGHT IN INDIANAPOLIS AND WERE BEING INVESTIGATED BY US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AGENTS AT THE REQUEST OF DETROIT AUTHORITIES. STORY QUOTES DUNCAN MACCREA, WAYNE COUNTY MICHIGAN PROSECUTOR, AS SAYING IN PART QUOTE THE INDIANAPOLIS NOTES SOUND AUTHENTIC TO ME, AND I AM ASKING DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AGENTS ASSIGNED TO ME BY ATTORNEY GENERAL HOMER CUMMINGS, FOR THIS INVESTIGATION, TO IMMEDIATELY PROBE THE INDIANAPOLIS ANGLE UNQUOTE. THIS OFFICE HAS NOT INVESTIGATED AND IS NOT INVESTIGATING ANY ANGLE THIS MATTER, AND NO REQUEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO MAKE ANY INVESTIGATION

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
DOWD

END

JUN 4 1936

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC PCB

61-7398-44

MAY 29 1936

TAMM

FILE

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

May 25, 1936.

Time - 10:25 A.M.

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE [REDACTED]

Re: "Black Legion" matter.

I telephoned SAC Reinecke at the Detroit Office with reference to the publicity which has come out about the Federal authorities offering every cooperation in connection with the above matter in that vicinity. Mr. Reinecke said that this is absolutely all wrong; that he has not offered any cooperation to anyone in this situation. He said that he has been called by the papers on two or three occasions wanting to know if the Bureau was in on the case, to which he replied that since there are no facts to date indicating a Federal violation within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau, no investigation by the Bureau is being conducted. However, he said that the newspapers may have just put that in as a result of the identification by the Identification Division of the Bureau of the fingerprints of the murdered man. Mr. Reinecke said that the papers are trying to bring the Bureau into the investigation of this matter out there for news value, and, realizing this, he has very carefully handled every inquiry in order to make sure there would be no basis in fact or from innuendo which would indicate the Bureau is participating in the investigation. As a matter of fact, Mr. Reinecke said that the local authorities have not requested the assistance of the Detroit Office in this matter, and have not contacted that office either officially or unofficially about the case.

Mr. Reinecke said that so far as he can see at this time, there is not even a scintilla of evidence developed to date indicating a Federal violation of any kind. The victim of the murder, Poole, was found on the outskirts of the city, and the murderers were arrested in the city itself, thus eliminating the unlawful flight possibility. He said that from the newspapers, he understands a man died in Jackson, Michigan, some time ago, and his wife is now claiming that shortly before his death, he was taken out and beaten by an organization such as the Black Legion, and that he died as a result of this beating. The death certificate shows his death to be from another cause. There is no Federal angle for consideration in this situation either. The victim was beaten on the outskirts of the city, and the beaters apparently are still in the city itself. However, in the Jackson angle, Mr. Reinecke said the papers indicate a couple of prison guards were members of the organization, and that one of them has been suspended by reason of his membership.

INDEXED

Mr. Reinecke said that Poole, the instant victim, was found shot on the outskirts of Dearborn, Michigan. Through the identification of his

JUN 3 1936

MAY 20 1936

Memo for the Director

-2-

5/25/36

fingerprints by the Identification Division of the Bureau, it was found that he was originally from down in Kentucky. A check among his friends and acquaintances by the police out there resulted in several arrests, and the police obtained confessions from five or six who stated that they were members of this Black Legion. These people admitted, according to the papers, that they killed Poole for the reason that they had received a complaint at one of their meetings that Poole was mistreating his wife. This was the starting point of uncovering this Black Legion, a group of men who organized to promote Protestantism and Anti-Communism, etc. There were found among the personal effects of the men arrested some black robes which had been used by them. While there are claims running around to the effect that the organization is national in scope and has officers like the Army, Mr. Reinecke has no idea and has no way of knowing the extent or number of members of this organization.

Mr. Reinecke said that the people who are in custody and who have admitted killing Poole are people who have migrated into Michigan from Tennessee and Kentucky — George W. Barrett type. He said that they are just a bunch of low-type hill billies who have come out of the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee and have obtained employment in the industrial enterprises in the vicinity of Dearborn, and it is easy to see how they would kill with impunity just on the violation of a woman.

Mr. Reinecke is doing absolutely nothing on this matter and will not do anything unless specifically advised by the Bureau.

~~Respectfully,~~



E. A. TAMM.



RECEIVED  
61-7598 - 48 June 15, 1936

RECORDED

Reverend Columban F. Kelly, O. F. M.,  
Mt. Alverno Retreat,  
Warrick, New York.

Dear Father Kelly:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 29, 1936, furnishing an expression of your opinion relative to this Bureau's present attitude in respect to the matter of investigating the activities of the Black Legion.

For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.


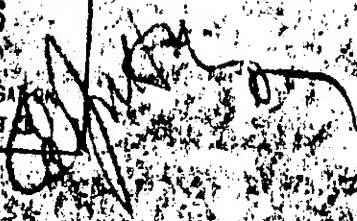
I appreciate, however, your courtesy in permitting me to apprise myself of your views in this matter, as well as your favorable comments relative to the work of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

- Mr. Nathan .....
- Mr. Tolson .....
- Mr. Baughman .....
- Chief Clerk .....
- Mr. Clegg .....
- Mr. Coffey .....
- Mr. Edwards .....
- Mr. Egan .....
- Mr. Foxworth .....
- Mr. Harbo .....
- Mr. Joseph .....
- Mr. Keith .....
- Mr. Lester .....
- Mr. Quinn .....
- Mr. Schilder .....
- Mr. Tamm .....
- Mr. Tracy .....
- Miss Gandy .....

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
60-New York  
JUN 15 1936  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Franciscan Monastery  
PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

Mt. Alverno Retreat  
Warwick, New York.

May 29 '36

Dear Dr. Hoover:

When I returned from Paterson last Wednesday evening I in my mail a copy of your address before the Boys' Clubs of America in Philadelphia on May 20th. It is very good and I have glad to have it. I also heard deliver that address over the radio.

I believe that your Bureau is taking the right stand in the matter of investigating the unholy activities of the Black Legion. Those who are howling for the intervention of the F. B. I. should know that you cannot interfere until there is evidence that Federal laws have been violated. No doubt such laws been violated but when it is clear that such is the case I am confident that you will act. When the Bureau is sure of its ground nothing can or will stop you.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Kelly.

JUN 23 1936

Reply 6/19/36

RECORDED

&  
INDEXED

61-7398-46  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 1 1936

TOLSON

JOSEPH

MISS GANDY  
TWO

[redacted] of the KKK, called at Atlanta  
Office offering his organization's assistance in the  
inves. of the Black Legion. Was informed Bu did not have  
the Black Legion under investigation.

emk



# Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

501 Healey Building  
Atlanta, Georgia

EEC:rd  
62-0

May 29, 1936

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Mr. Egan       | ..... |
| Mr. Tolson     | ..... |
| Mr. Pennington | ..... |
| Chief Clerk    | ..... |
| Mr. Clegg      | ..... |
| Mr. Coffey     | ..... |
| Mr. Edwards    | ..... |
| Mr. Egan       | ..... |
| Mr. Foxworth   | ..... |
| Mr. Harbo      | ..... |
| Mr. Joseph     | ..... |
| Mr. Keith      | ..... |
| Mr. Lester     | ..... |
| Mr. Quinn      | ..... |
| Mr. Schilder   | ..... |
| Mr. Tamm       | ..... |
| Mr. Tracy      | ..... |
| Miss Gandy     | ..... |

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Dr. [REDACTED] of the Ku Klux Klan, who resides at Atlanta, Georgia, called at this office about Noon today, after having been referred to this office by United States Attorney Lawrence S. Camp.

[REDACTED] when he arrived at the office, indicated he might have some information which would be of value to the Government in the investigation of the Black Legion. I informed [REDACTED] in keeping with instructions previously received from Mr. Tamm of the Bureau, that this Bureau did not have under investigation the Black Legion and was receiving no information regarding the activities of that organization. I informed him that in the event he had any information which he desired to furnish to interested officials, it would be proper for him to direct his information to the Detroit, Michigan local authorities.

[REDACTED] stated that his information was in the nature of theories developed as the result of his knowledge of secret organizations and organizers of such associations. He stated he had called at the office to advise that the Ku Klux Klan is ready and willing to aid the Government to its fullest extent in any investigation which may be conducted. He stated this Bureau should feel perfectly free to examine the books of his organization or interview any of the officials of that organization at any time.

He advised that inasmuch as the Federal Government itself was not interested in the Black Legion, he [REDACTED] would carry the matter no further. [REDACTED] requested that no publicity [REDACTED] be given his visit at this office and his offer of cooperation.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JUN 3 1936

61-7398-47  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 2 1936

TAMM

TW

Very truly yours,

E. E. CONROY  
Special Agent in Charge



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FROM: DIVISION #1 & DIVISION #2

1936.

TO:

Director

Mr. Nathan

Mr. Tolson

Mr. Quinn

Mr. Edwards

Mr. Clegg

Files Section

Personnel Files

Chief Clerk's Office

Identification Division

Technical Laboratory

Division Three

SUPERVISORS

Mr. Chambers

Mr. Emrich

Mr. Fletcher

Mr. Foxworth

Mr. Hood

Mr. Johnson

Mr. Lindquist

Mr. McIntire

Mr. Rosen

Mr. Smith

Mr. Soucy

Mr. Spear

Mr. Vincent

Mr. Weeks

Mr. Nathan

Mr. Tolson

Mr. Baughman

Chief Clerk

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Coffey

Mr. Edwards

Mr. Egan

Mr. Foxworth

Mr. Harbo

Mr. Joseph

Mr. Keith

Mr. Lester

Mr. Quinn

Mr. Schilder

Mr. Tracy

Miss Gandy

\* \* \*

Miss Gandy

Mrs. Fisher

Miss Gallavan

Miss Conlon

Mr. Ward

Typists

M

See Me

Send File

Call me regarding this

Correct

Re-write

Re-date

Note and Return

Search, serialize and route

E. A. TAMM - 5742.

209

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
506 Fletcher Trust Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
May 29, 1936

JAD:mle

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto you will find a news item appearing in the Chicago Herald and Examiner, issue of May 28, 1936, over a South Bend, Indiana, date line of May 27, 1936 having to do with the Black Legion and its activities in Starke County, Michigan. You will note therein that in the opening lines of the item it states that information pertaining to the spread of the organization in Northern Indiana was laid before a representative of the Department of Justice here (South Bend) on May 27, 1936.

Special Agent J. E. Jones, stationed at South Bend, Indiana, as a resident agent working under this office, informs me concerning the matter as follows.

On the evening of May 27, 1936, William Diedrich, Chief of Detectives of the South Bend Police Department telephoned Agent Jones at the latter's residence and stated that a man was in his office and wanted to speak to a Bureau Agent relative to the "Black Legion" activities in this section. The chief requested that Agent Jones go to the Police Station and talk with the above individual. Agent Jones diplomatically declined the invitation and advised Chief Diedrich that Agent had no authority to check into the matter or to talk to anyone concerning the same; that such an investigation must be first ordered by headquarters; that it was thought advisable not even to go to the police station and discuss the matter because of the dangers of false newspaper publicity. Accordingly, Agent Jones did not go to the police station and did not discuss the matter with anyone.

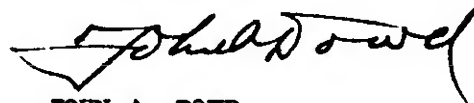
On the morning of May 28, 1936 while at the Police Department on other matters, Chief Diedrich called Agent Jones' attention to an article in the Chicago Herald and Examiner (Indiana Section) dated May 28, 1936, which article was purportedly written at South Bend, Indiana and was to the effect that a "Starke County man had discussed the Black Legion activities with a Department of Justice representative at South Bend." This information is false in every respect. Chief Diedrich explained that newspaper reporters were present after he, the Chief, discussed instant matter with the "Starke County man";

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Egan  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Tracy  
Miss Gandy

that he, Chief Diedrich, said nothing to them about telephoning Agent Jones and specifically requested the reporters not to even mention the fact that a Starke County Man had called at the Police Department to give information on Black Legion activities; that in spite of his, the Chief's, request, the attached article appeared in the Chicago paper. -

Agent Jones is aware of none of the information offered by the Starke County individual and knows nothing of instant matter except that set out above and that which appeared in the attached newspaper clipping. Agent Jones examined both South Bend newspapers on May 28, 1936 for similar articles but apparently none appeared therein.

Very truly yours,



JOHN A. DOWD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

1 Enclosure

CHICAGO HERALD AND EXAMINER  
INDIANA Section  
May 28,  
1936

**HAMMOND BLACK**

**LEGION ACTS TO**

**DISBAND**

61-7398-48

141



# Fort Wayne Hooded Riders Kidnap Township Officials; Ordeal Described to Sheriff

**Indiana's Robed Riders—**

## FEARFUL 'LEGION' RECRUIT TALKS

*Starke County Member's  
Story Laid Before G-Man*

SOUTH BEND, May 27.—Information pertaining to the spread in northern Indiana of the notorious Black Legion, whose criminal activities in Michigan resulted in a nationwide investigation, was laid before a representative of the Department of Justice here today.

The information was volunteered to Assistant Chief of Police William Diedrich by a business man of Starke County.

The informant was said to be a member of the black legion who did not realize its criminal proclivities and fears now to renounce his membership.

An amazingly large membership in the legion in northern counties of the state is said to exist.

Alexander Campbell, assistant United States district attorney, stationed here, said this afternoon that nothing pertaining to the Black Legion's activities had been brought to his attention. Prosec-

utor George L. Rullison of St. Joseph County and his Mishawaka deputy, Paul S. Bryant, made similar statements.

However, it was reported that a branch of the United Brethren of America, said to be connected with the legion, is active in Mishawaka, where its members meet secretly in private homes. The United Brethren of America is not the official title of the Black Legion but the latter organization uses that title in some of its literature.

Chief of Police James L. Guy of Mishawaka said that the Mishawaka organization is apparently peaceful. It was reported active politically about two years ago.

One of the strange features of the Black Legion organization in Indiana, Diedrich was told, is that it is now, at least, not requiring payment of dues from its recruits. It is believed this has induced many men, unaware of the organization's true purpose of hate, to join.

**Cult's Armed 'Jury' Sits  
on Crescent Throne;  
Threatens Two  
With Death**

HAMMOND, May 27.

proximately 250 members of the Black Legion in Hammond were scheduled to meet at midnight, it was learned, to decide whether the unit should be disbanded in the face of developments in Detroit.

It was learned authoritatively that the Hammond branch has been in existence since last September. The local clan met for a while in a downtown club room and later in an office building.

FORT WAYNE, May 27.—Kidnaping of a former township official and his chief deputy were revealed tonight by Sheriff George W. Gillie as authorities pushed their investigation into the activities of the Mystic Order of Black Snakes, hooded cult, which the sheriff believes is an agency of the Black Legion.

The sheriff did not reveal the names of the cult victims, adding that he has no evidence tangible enough on which to issue warrants for arrest of the abductors.

The two officials, Gillie said, were strolling along Calhoun st. when four armed men ordered

Their hands tied behind their backs and blindfolded, the two were taken on a long, devious ride, finally being led into a circle of ominous, hooded figures, the sheriff said.

#### ADDRESSED BY LEADER.

According to the story told the sheriff by the two officials, twelve hooded men with pistols sat upon a crescent throne, surrounded by a silent circle of figures clad in black, unrevealing robes.

The hooded leader of the cult, the victims told the sheriff, then addressed them, stating that the cult had obtained information that the officials were contemplating the discharge of two of its members, who were in the township officials' employ.

Should they carry out their plans, the hooded figure warned, the officials would again be kidnapped and beaten with a vicious blacksnake whip—which lay on the ground before them.

The leader added that "worse consequences" might follow. This the two victims interpreted as a threat of death.

#### WPA WORKER'S STORY.

The township officials and his deputy then were taken back to the spot where they had been abducted and released.

A Works Progress Administration worker today also told the sheriff how he had been duped into becoming a member of the cult, but that he had never attended a meeting. He said that coworkers had recently advised him to attend meetings regularly "or suffer the consequences."

—Buy American—

206  
AFB:LE  
61-7598-49

RECORDED

June 8, 1936

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
972 Harrietta Street,  
Zanesville, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 28, 1936, in which you offer your assistance to this Bureau in connection with its investigation into the criminal activities of the "Black Legion".

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the "Black Legion" are in violation of any such Federal law, no action is being taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

Your offer of assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated, but I must advise you that all investigations by this Bureau are conducted only by duly appointed Special Agents thereof. All applicants for this position must be between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five years and must show by their application that they are graduates from accredited law schools, having had two years of practical commercial experience, or graduates from accredited accounting schools, having had two years of practical business experience and capable of testifying on the witness stand as an expert in accounting matters, or investigators having had extensive criminal investigative experience. Inasmuch as you indicate your age to be twenty-three years, it appears that you are not eligible for the position of Special Agent.

JUN - 8 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

cc - Cincinnati

J. Edgar Hoover  
Dept of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

7

Lebanon, Ohio

May 28, 1936

RECORDED

Mr. Hoover & -

INDEXED

61-4378-49

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 1 1936

JUN 9 1936

I am writing you in  
connection with a possible  
investigation into the activities  
of the Black Legion of the  
Middle West, and am <sup>ack. cc.</sup>  
willing to do anything <sup>Cincinnati</sup>  
I can to aid you. <sup>4/8/36. ESE</sup>

I am 23 years old 5 feet  
11 1/2 inches tall and weigh 160 lbs.  
and will do what I can to  
assist you in your fight to  
stamp out crime.

You can write to Mr  
Ray Warner of the Zanesville



Police Department in  
regard to anything you  
might want to know  
about me.

Awaiting Your Reply

I am  
Yours truly

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Zanesville  
Ohio

207  
KFE:LL  
61-7398-50

RECORDED

June 8, 1936

Mr. [REDACTED]  
926 West Ninth Street,  
San Pedro, California.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 25, 1936, furnishing information relative to the activities of Dr. Martin Luther Thomas whom you allege to be a religious radio preacher, and requesting that an investigation be conducted by this Bureau relative to Dr. Thomas.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is limited to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the above named individual are in violation of any such Federal law, there is no action which can be taken by this Bureau in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED

Los Angeles 6-8 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson     |  |
| Mr. E. A. Tamm |  |
| Mr. Clegg      |  |
| Mr. Glavin     |  |
| Mr. Ladd       |  |
| Mr. Nichols    |  |
| Mr. Rosen      |  |
| Mr. Tracy      |  |
| Mr. Carson     |  |
| Mr. Egan       |  |
| Mr. Gurnea     |  |
| Mr. Hendon     |  |
| Mr. Jones      |  |
| Mr. Mumford    |  |
| Mr. Quinn      |  |
| Mr. Nease      |  |
| Miss Gandy     |  |

San Pedro California  
May 26 '36.  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington D.C.

Sirs.- I am shocked but not surprised  
the uncovering of a murdering Black Leg  
in Michigan.

If the Federal Government does not take  
a hand to stamp out such vermin, I believe  
we in California will see a reign of terror  
too in the not distant future.

We have here in Los Angeles a Dr. Martin  
Luther Thomas, a religious radio preacher  
who I believe could bear any responsibility.

He arrived ~~eight~~ twelve years ago from  
Chicago I believe, in San Pedro to be a  
minister of the First Presbyterian Church.

His activities from the very beginning he  
were anti-social & wholly dogmatic and  
in the spirit of this Black shirt group.

He had special K.K.K. services in his  
Church in full regalia and on account  
of these and other activities [was forced]  
to resign from the Presbyterian Ministry by  
demand of the district council.

For the last 3 years he has been broad-  
casting twice a day on coast wide network  
(Hearst Station I believe) under the slogan

Under the cloak of attacking communists he has apparently accumulated much prestige among power full groups, as he now lives in a mansion in Pasadena with the millions and rides around in high priced cars.

This person was my neighbor for 6 years, and when I write this, I do this not in a spirit of revenge or of personal grudges, but as a social obligation as I am residing at this address for 14 years.

I have positive proof that this radio racketeer would not hesitate to commit violence or to urge someone else to do it.

I saw him going into the yard of a neighbor with a shotgun in hand, demanding her cat; the sanctity of the home would not stop him to gain his end whatever it might be.

He even demanded of my minor son to shoot cats around his home (he could do it in the heart of the city, and if the police say anything to send them to Dr. Martin Luther).

In 1930 with the coming in office of the notorious Klan Administration of

Mayor John C. Porter in Los Angeles he became the mayor's super-snoop.

He also was appointed by the Mayor as chairman of a committee to investigate the Bureau of Power & Light, the greatest municipal owned institution of its kind in America, presumably for the purpose



expert, why, his neighbor could not but observe, that for instance, his garage door was hanging on one hinge for years!

Recently he was appointed by our Klan Governor as chaplain to the State Militia with the rank as Major.

By reading between the lines you can readily where he belongs now.

(It is with extreme gratitude that I view the activities of our Department of Justice to stamp out gangsterism & racketeering, with this radio racketeer spouting twice a day his hatred against our Administration under the cloak of fighting Communism. I hope you will look into the activities of this person, & believe this man's unholy influence will be used at some later date for some violent purpose by those who control & finance him.

Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

278:LL

61-7398-51

67-31472-29

June 9, 1936

RECORDED

RE  
[REDACTED]

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 29, 1936, furnishing information relative to your experience while employed by the Burns Detective Agency at Tulsa, Oklahoma, which position you state you were forced to resign by reason of your refusal to join a secret society which you believe is similar to the "Black Legion". It is noted you are desirous of assisting this Bureau in its investigation relative to that organization.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws and collecting evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of either the "Black Legion" or the organization to which you refer are in violation of any such Federal law, no action can be taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

I appreciate, however, your interest and courtesy in furnishing this information to me.

Very truly yours,

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED

JUN 10 1936

P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

cc - Oklahoma City

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

RECEIVED

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Baughman  
Chief Clerk  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Joseph  
Mr. Keith  
Mr. Lester  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

Tulsa, Oklahoma.  
May 28, 1936

Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I do not know whether or not the Federal Bureau of Investigation will interest itself in the purported investigation of the secret society, known as the "Black Legion", but the fact that I am an applicant for a position as Special Agent makes me vitally interested in the continued success of your organization, and I am writing now to give you what little information I have, about what I believe, might concern this so called secret society.

In order that I might acquire some experience as an investigator I applied for a position to Mr. F. N. Burns of the Burns Detective Agency here in Tulsa. I worked for him several Saturdays before he approached me on the subject of entering a secret society, which had for its purpose (according to Mr. Burns) things similar to the secret society already mentioned. Hoping that I might learn something of this society I kept an appointment, made for me, by Mr. Burns with two men in the Bliss Hotel. I spent an hour with them but obtained very little information. They wanted me to promote this society in Tulsa, but refused to tell me the name of it, or the names of its officers. I refused to join, and shortly after this, Mr. Burns asked me to return my identification card.

This is not being written with the intention to promote my own interest with your Bureau, neither is it because Mr. Burns asked for the return of my card. I would have written before this except for the fact that I did not think the Federal Bureau of Investigation would have jurisdiction, however it looks now as though it will have.

I sincerely hope that if the Federal Bureau of Investigation is interested in this investigation that I can be of some small help.

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-51

Sincerely and Respectfully yours,

ack  
cc - Okla City  
6/9/36. EJE

JUN 15 1936

141

re: Bu

199

[redacted] Tulsa, advises that F.N. Burns of the Burns Detective Agency in Tulsa, for whom he worked, approached him on subject of entering secret society which had for its purposes things similar to Black Legion.

This man is the applicant who sent telegram to airport in Tulsa in Jan. of this year for Director requesting 10 minute interview. He has failed twice to pass Agents' examination. Recommendation Unfavorable.

emk

*Jolson*  
*Samuel*



Associated Press Wirephoto  
**ACTIVE IN BLACK LEGION.** Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Lupp, Sr., at their summer cottage in Algonac, Mich., yesterday told of their affiliation with the Black Legion. He was chief recruitment officer in Michigan. She held rank of "colonel" in work.



Supplementary

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION  
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

194

Note pictures inclosed - don't be misled by their superior force - if they can organize an organization of that sort - they are just as bad man or woman as any you had to deal with - Same.

JUN 3

1936

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

61-7398-52

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 3 1936

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

From a National Stand point  
This is Federal job - you can secure deputies by the millions by giving badges and arranging an auxiliary legion - the country divided into federal zones - something like other departments - of this kind of subversive - vile - and constitutional and government overthrow organization & over please

195  
by any kind of people or things  
no matter what origin  
or degree isn't ferreted out  
and a general federal supervision  
style system maintained <sup>to</sup> see  
that no organizations of that  
sort are formed - no one can  
prophecy what ruinous  
national conditions federal  
or national system might dwell  
both in relation domestic  
and even [one don't like to  
say] abroad.

Straight citizens.

Get your job - Get this  
nation into a straight  
team-work federal organization  
and make it mighty then ever.

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE

JUN 11 1936

RECEIVED  
FBI



176



J. Edgar Hoover  
Dept. of Justice  
Washington - D. C.

Check  
with  
Branch



# Founder of Black Legion Is Just Plain 'Doctor Billy' to Bellaire Home Folks

**SPECIAL TO THE NEWS**  
**BELLAIRE, O.**—"General" Billy Shepard is a nervous, active little man with a jet black pompadour and squinting eyes.

To the 8,000 residents of this Ohio river town he is known as "Doctor Billy," and for 15 years he has been health commissioner of Bellaire at a salary of \$25 a month.

They know "Doctor Billy" as a joiner, a jovial drug store orator and a man who likes to be a bit mysterious at times, but, withal, a harmless fellow who can absorb a lot of kidding.

But William Shepard, commander-in-chief of the Black Legion in America, is a title which draws little more than mock solemnity or open guffaws from the sophisticated members of the Round Table Luncheon club, which meets regularly in the rear of Dankworth's drug store.

## Admits Founding Legion

Upon such a man are the eyes of the nation and many parts of the world centered today, for "Doc" Shepard has become an international figure as the founder and leader of the Black Legion.

He admits readily enough that he conceived the idea of the Black Legion when he was thrown out of the Ku Klux Klan 11 years ago because he formed his own "Black Guard" by coloring the white hoods of his followers with lamp black.

## Klan Was Jealous

"Grand Dragon James A. Cole-scott was jealous of the Black Guards' popularity," is the way Doctor Billy puts it. Cole-scott charged Shepard was trying to form a separate organization within the Klan.



DR. WILLIAM SHEPARD

## McMa Cough Party

Any mem  
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Coughlin, to  
Raymond J. J  
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61-7398-52

157





Associated Press Wirephoto  
**ACTIVE IN BLACK LEGION.** Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Lupp at  
their summer cottage in Algonac, Mich., yesterday told  
of their affiliation with the Black Legion. He was chief regional officer  
in Michigan. She held rank of "colonel" in women's organization.

RECORDED

WELL  
61-7396-39

June 8, 1936

Mr. Edward Philipson,  
2077 Sierra Way,  
San Bernardino, California.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 27, 1936, furnishing an expression of your observations as to the purposes and activities of the "Black Clan" in this country and requesting that this Bureau take appropriate steps to expose and prosecute the leaders of this organization.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws and collecting evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. Widespread as the activities of the organization to which you refer do not appear relevant to any such Federal violation, I regret that this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in referring this matter to my attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director.

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| COMMUNICATIONS SECTION          |
| MAILED                          |
| JUN - 9 1936                    |
| P. M.                           |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE     |
| - Los Angeles                   |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Mr. Tolson     |  |
| Mr. E. A. Tamm |  |
| Mr. Clegg      |  |
| Mr. Glavin     |  |
| Mr. Ladd       |  |
| Mr. Nichols    |  |
| Mr. Rosen      |  |
| Mr. Tracy      |  |
| Mr. Carson     |  |
| Mr. Egan       |  |
| Mr. Gurnea     |  |
| Mr. Harbo      |  |
| Mr. Joseph     |  |
| Mr. Keith      |  |
| Mr. Lester     |  |
| Mr. Quinn      |  |
| Mr. Nease      |  |
| Miss Gandy     |  |

# California Citrus Pulp Company

Office and Factory  
COLTON, CALIFORNIA

Manufacturers of  
CITRUS BY-PRODUCTS OF  
Oranges ■ Grapefruit ■ Lemons



May 27th 1936

Hon. Edgar Hoover,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Hon. Sir;

With regret we read of the activities of the "BLACK CLAN" in Michigan and other States and localities. Their Leader claims 6,000,000 Members, all determined to overthrow the constituted authority of this Country. It is a disgrace to our government and shows that we are lax in our dealings with persons or organizations which are operated for personal gain and profit, detrimental to the welfare of our Country.

(Your G-Men have shown the Country the way. They have shown the good people that they can have FAITH in you and your organization.

You will be doing your Country and its Citizens a great deed by smashing this "BLACK CLAN" wide open and exposing their activities prosecuting the guilty and the leaders and dis-arming these vicious men, whose principal aim and purpose is to turn our Country into an armed fighting camp, pinning various factions and religious groups against each other for no reason whatsoever. The murderous BLACK CLAN should be exposed and action should be the word.

(Long life to you Hon. Edgar Hoover and your G-MEN.) I beg you to move forward into this situation and show these outlaws of our Country that THIS IS A FREE COUNTRY run by constituted authorities under the Flag of Justice to All. Any and all that oppose our wonderful form our government should be exiled or deported or placed in Jails or marked in such manner so that the Public may know with whom they are dealing. (Anyone would stay clear of a rattle-snake because they can see that snake and we believe that your wonderful organization is the only organization that can run these BLACK CLAN rattle snakes out into the open where self respecting citizens may meet the situation as they see it.

RECORDED & INDEXED  
PRAISE FOR THE G-MEN  
AND THEIR LEADER.

Edward Philipson  
2077 Sierra Way  
San Bernardino, Calif.

67-7398-53  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 1 1936 P. M.

AV. 1 PH 1/16



189  
CORRECTION

RECEIVED

61-7998-54

June 8, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

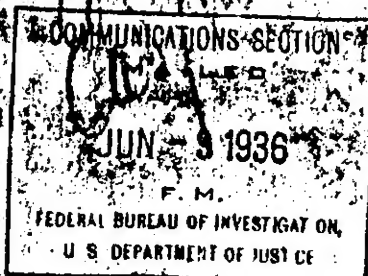
I am transmitting herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous communication, postmarked at Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 30, 1936, which furnishes information relative to the activities of one Gressens L. Smith, 251 Union Street, S. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, who is allegedly connected with the radical movement and communist party in that city.

This is being furnished you merely for your information.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure #1134231





Grand F. Mich.  
May 25 1936

19  
3

Dept. Of Justice  
Washington D.C.

\*  
RECEIVED COMMUNICATION  
ENVELOPE ATTACHED

Gentlemen--

Have just heard that your department is about to investigate the Black Legion in Michigan.

For your information I wish to propose one whom I consider an ideal type for this sort of an organization.

He is a member of the American Legion and the Elks ; and as you no doubt know , the later have established a fund of one million dollars to keep abreast of the radical movement in this country. He is also a member of the Communist party here . He used to be a high pressure salesman and is now conducting a one man dental and medical service business. He makes but little money but always can dig up plenty to buy liquor for the purposes finding out things about people which appear unimportant. He was one of a group of American Legionnaires that kidnapped and beat up a number of the comrades of Mr. Stalin , in this city on Aug. 1 st. 1931. He put the rope around the neck of a one armed chap and flogged the posteriors of another whom they had tied astraddle of a barrel. He is well read and a good talker. He has been all over and is bi-sexual.

his name and address is

Crescenz E. Smith  
251 Union St. S.E.  
Grand Rapids

Letter -

Detroit 6/8/36  
mjk

Business address  
34 Porter Block.

P.S.

Would like to add that ~~that~~ Stalin's boys and girls do not know that their Comrade Smith was a member of the flogging bee. I have just seen some pictures of the affair, taken by one of ~~that~~ the legionnaires showing his features quiet plainly along with most of the others. These pictures are now in the possession of a young W.P.A. photog ~~who~~ who is trying to sell them both to Smith and anyone else.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JUN 10 1936

|                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| 61-7398-54                      |      |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |      |
| JUN 1 1936                      |      |
| U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE           |      |
| TWO                             | FILE |

162



191



AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON D.C.

RPT-VTL

61-7398-55

June 3, 1936.

RECORDED

Mr. [REDACTED]  
 Angelus Hotel,  
 Corner Dunsmuir and Howe Streets,  
 Vancouver, British Columbia,  
 Canada.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 26, 1936, together with the newspaper clippings relative to the Black Legion, advising that there is a person in Vancouver who has represented himself as being the head of this organization.

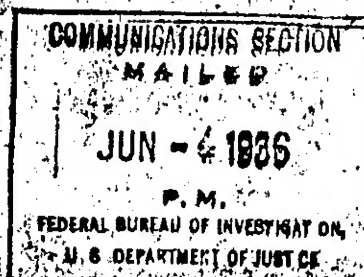
For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. Inasmuch as the activities of the Black Legion do not appear to indicate any such Federal violation, I regret that no action can be taken by this Bureau in the premises.

Your courtesy, however, in furnishing this information for my attention is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
 Director.

Mr. Nathan .....  
 Mr. Tolson .....  
 Mr. Baughman .....  
 Chief Clerk .....  
 Mr. Clegg .....  
 Mr. Coffey .....  
 Mr. Edwards .....  
 Mr. Egan .....  
 Mr. Foxworth .....  
 Mr. Harbo .....  
 Mr. Joseph .....  
 Mr. Keith .....  
 Mr. Lester .....  
 Mr. Quinn .....  
 Mr. Schilder .....  
 Mr. Tamm .....  
 Mr. Tracy .....  
 Miss Gandy .....





TELEPHONE  
SEYMOUR 4094 4095

W.C. DAWSON  
OWNERS AND  
NORMAN G. TH  
OWNER AND MANAGER



# ANGELUS HOTEL

COR DUNSMUIR & HOWE STS  
VANCOUVER, B. C.

5/26/36

Mr. J. E. Hoover  
Federal. Dep.  
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir.

I live at Southworth & Washington.

There is a man there in the vicinity who represented himself to me as being the head of what I think is the organization referred to in the enclosed clipping. If this information is of any assistance I can find him out.

Black Legion  
5/26/36

Handwritten notes and stamps on the left margin.

RECORDED

INDEXED

61-7398-55

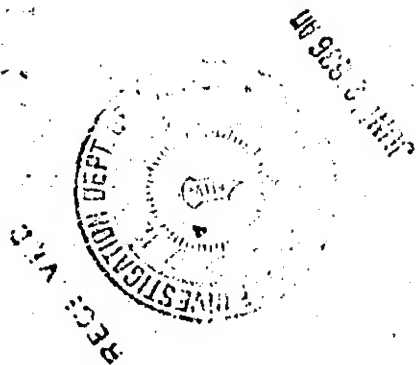
Do not address me at my home address. A letter or comm will get me here. Reply.

JUN 5 1936

JUN 5 1936  
TWO M R



Do not w<sup>h</sup> through the  
stuffs of Quisap Co he is too  
closely allied.



FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE

JUN 1 3 36 PM 1936

FILES SECTION

RECEIVED

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

# TODAY

(Continued From Page 1)

calls the legion "the strong arm  
agency of the Ku Klux Klan."

The legion's idea of purifying  
America is shown in its prelimi-  
nary oath. Before joining the  
legion, the candidate must declare  
himself "ready to take up arms  
against Jews, Negroes and Cath-  
olics."

A few executions in the regular  
way, with no help from the Black  
Legion, should convince that body  
that America prepares "purifica-  
tion" in the old-fashioned way.

Hailé Selassie is on his way  
to London and British statesman-  
ship wonders what to do about  
that. Theoretically, he is still an  
emperor, the British not having  
recognized Mussolini's mopping  
up in Africa.

One thing is certain, the young  
English king, who has a sense of  
humor, will not go to the railroad  
station to meet Selassie on a  
piece of new red carpet.

Those sanctions with twenty-one  
to one against Italy in the league  
did not save Emperor Selassie, but  
did cripple Italy's foreign trade,  
cutting off six-sevenths of it in  
March for instance.

The Italians report a wide  
Anglo-Italian rift in Ethiopia,  
where the Italian conquerors would  
relish a command to march on  
British colonies.

No such command is necessary.

## MURDER PARADES IN WEIRD MASK



ROBE OF BLACK LEGION TORTURE CULT  
Members of the Order, Have Been Seized as Slayers of a  
WPA Worker in Detroit.—(Story on Page 1.)  
—(Picture From International News Photograph Service.)

## U. S. SOCIAL SPLIT; AND PARTY LO

'Old Guard' Announces  
Separate Group as  
Thomas 'Lefts' Get

CLEVELAND, May 24.  
Within an hour after the  
convention of the Social  
voted down the right-  
guard" forces from New  
seated the leftist delega-  
Norman Thomas, the "o  
announced today it would  
a new party.

The "old guard" deleg-  
the convention for a con-  
its headquarters with rig-  
ers from other states.  
York delegation leader, L  
man, announced:

"As far as New York  
cerned, there can be  
we will form a new par-  
These delegations, Lo  
man, leader, said, are f  
sylvania, Massachusetts,  
cut, Rhode Island, Mar  
Washington.

The New York "old gu-  
ber-expect support amo  
cialist Party membership  
states, he said.

However, rightist lea-  
these states would make  
tions.

### PLATFORM TODAY

While the "old guard"  
ing its announcement, t  
tion was belatedly org-  
self, to rush the work  
tees. The platform w  
turned tomorrow.

Right-wing delegator  
to the afternoon sessi-  
not participate in the o  
of the convention.

The differences cen-  
such issues as the left-  
tion of principles adop-  
troit two years ago an-  
tion of local "united f  
Communists on auc  
points as May Day dem-  
But the immediate f  
don's schism.

# Today

(Reg. U. S. Patent Off.)

U. S. Dollars Emigrate

Russia Kills Quickly

Japan Cannot See It

A Very Black Legion

By Arthur Brisbane

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"Americans investing huge sums in the Bahamas, to escape income tax," says the New York Times, big type, front page. "Americans have been investing huge sums" elsewhere, outside of the United States. Billions of American money have gone to Canada, England and other foreign parts. More will go in all the Bahamas, 4,103 square miles of beautiful territory. THERE IS NO INCOME TAX. Think of that for a happy country.

Needless to say, the American money pours in to make it worth while, the intelligent British will find a way to tax it; meanwhile, for Americans that moved out their money early, the Bahamas are as "a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." Moving billions of capital out of this country to invest in job-creating enterprises abroad will not help our depression problem. The Irish can tell you what happened to Ireland when British landlords spent in London all the rents they collected in Ireland.

Fortunately for our tax-investing "gentlemen," Americans whose business is creating jobs for other Americans, cannot move everything to the Bahamas. Henry Ford or Alfred P. Sloan Jr. cannot move their plants there. Myron C. Taylor cannot move his steel mills. They must remain, to be taxed at the sweet will of professors that never created a payroll or a job in their lives.

Whether or not that is a wise system, time will tell.

Interesting executions here and there: Lithuania, after secret court-martial, executes four Lithuanian farmers, sends others to Siberia for life. All convicted of distribution of inflammatory pamphlets from Germany.

Germany cut off the head of a sixty-five-year-old man convicted of killing twelve boys. Before death, "examined" by Nazi officials who thought he might be a Communist, he admitted many other murders. He used a secret poison that doctors could not detect.

Russia sentenced to death a brutal, murderous, petty tyrant, governor of a far away island in the Arctic Circle, guilty for murder, and starving Eskimos. His assistant, also sentenced to death, "smiled, laughingly, smoked a cigarette." Bismarck, the Arctic tyrant, said "I do not deserve to die, and went in his handkerchief."

# Se

VOL. CXI, NO. 9

## RADIO

### BLACK LEGION LINKED WITH FIFTY DEATHS

Police Investigate Reports That 135,000 Night Riders Belong to Michigan Group

(Picture on Page 2.)

DETROIT, May 24.—(AP)—The roundup of "night riders" of the hooded Black Legion spread today as officials directed their inquiry to reports a membership totaling 135,000 in Michigan alone may be responsible for some fifty deaths.

In Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said murder warrants would be issued Monday for seven present at the "execution" of Charles A. Poole, young WPA worker. He declared the prosecution would include as many as may be identified of some fifty persons present at a Black Legion meeting which Poole was attending.

Ray Ernest, guard at the Southern Michigan prison, was held at Jackson for arraignment Monday on a charge of carrying concealed weapons, after he denied connection with the reported flogging of Paul Every, forty-two, also a prison guard, who died April 14 of what physicians pronounced heart disease and diabetes.

**CHECKING SUICIDES**  
State Police Capt. Ira H. Marmion, whose troopers have been investigating the secret vigilantes for months, said he was checking a report that fifty Michigan men had been marked for death, and that the Black Legion made its "executions" appear suicidal.

Mary Colburn, investigator for the Wayne County prosecutor's office, said she was informed the Black Legion's membership in the state grew in three years to 135,000, divided into five brigades of sixteen regiments each, that each member carried a pistol, and that the organization "is more dangerous than people think."

Claims in Black Legion literature seized by state police that it antedates the Ku Klux Klan and that the Klan was an offshoot from it were ridiculed by investigators who said the claims were made to impress prospective members.

**KLAN DENIES CONNECTION**

At New York, Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Klan, indignantly denied any connection with the legion and said the Klan has no affiliates and was firmly aligned on the side of law and order.

Detroit police, who seized eight men after an investigation into the shooting of Poole on a lonely road near Dearborn, released three who said they did not attend the



More billions of capital out of the country to invest in job-creating enterprises abroad will not help our depression problem. The Irish can tell you what happened to Ireland when British landlords spent in London all the rents they collected in Ireland. Fortunately for our tax-investing business, Americans cannot move their plants abroad. Americans cannot move every thing to the Bahamas. Henry Ford or Alfred P. Sloan Jr. cannot move their plants there. Myron C. Taylor cannot move his steel mills. They must remain to be taxed at the sweet will of politicians that never created a new roll or a job in their lives.

Whether or not that is a wise system, time will tell. Interesting executions here and there. After a secret court-martial, executes four Lithuanian farmers, sends others to prison for life. All convicted of distributing "inflammatory pamphlets from Germany." Germany cut off the head of a sixty-five-year-old man convicted of killing twelve boys. Before death, "examined" by Nazi officials who thought he might be a Communist. He admitted many other murders. He used a secret poison that doctors could not detect.

Russia sentenced to death a brutal, murderous, petty tyrant, governor of a far away island in the Arctic Circle, guilty of murder, and starving Eskimos. His assistant, also sentenced to death. "Smiled haughtily, removed his cigarette. Simenchuk, the Arctic tyrant, said 'I do not deserve to die, and wept in his handkerchief.' The assistant was half-witted. English justice is swift, about three weeks from conviction to hanging. Russian justice is swift, the two condemned have seventy-two hours for an appeal, then, after three days—the firing squad.

You know what delays we have here, when the murderer can raise money for lawyers. Returning to the plan to build up American prosperity by buying from foreigners, those foreigners seem not eager to adopt the plan for themselves. England persists in her "Buy British" campaign, and Japan's house of peers approves a bill "to restrict drastically the business of Ford and General Motors in Japan." Japan wants an automobile industry, really Japanese, and you cannot convince the wise Japanese empire that the way to keep Japanese workers busy is to buy the products of American labor.

It takes an American professor to work out that theory. The "Black Legion" of 100 per cent American patriots bent on establishing a better, brighter America by flogging and murdering turns out to be an extensive organization. Ten thousand of them, with black and white robes, hoods, skull and cross-bone ornaments, organized in one county. Police are working on some fifty murders committed by the Black Legion "in its efforts to purify America." It is found that murders were ingeniously arranged to look like suicides. Captain Marmon, of the Michigan state police

was taken to his death. Ray Ernest, guard at the Southern Michigan prison, was held at Jackson for arraignment Monday on a charge of carrying concealed weapons, after he denied connection with the reported flogging of Paul Every, forty-two, also a prison guard, who died April 14 of what physicians pronounced heart disease and diabetes.

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Detroit police, who seized eighteen men after an investigation into the shooting of Poole on a lonely road near Dearborn, released three who said they did not attend the Black Legion meeting that preceded it. Hearing on habeas corpus writs for fifteen others was set for Monday before Circuit Judge Adolph F. Marschner.

Harry Colburn, chief investigator for the Wayne County (Detroit) prosecutor's office, said that each Black Legionnaire carried a pistol. If the state ranks of the units were at full strength, the night riders had an armed force in Michigan alone comparable in numbers to the United States army, he said.

**Claudia Muzio, 44, Opera Star, Dies**  
ROME, May 24.—(U.S.)—Claudia Muzio, internationally famed opera singer whose voice thrilled audiences in New York, Chicago and other musical centers of the world, died here tonight. She was forty-four years old. Cardiac paralysis was the cause of death.

**Bugs Says New Veteran Crop Will Bloom in 3 Years**  
By ARTHUR "BUGS" BAER  
England gets ready for 1939 by preparing to "sweeten" the ocean with depth bombs.  
Another World War in three years makes the outlook as bright as an idiot's diploma. England has lined up 900 munition factories to rush orders of calico, colored beads and brass anklets.  
She is training 1,500 extra aviators who will go aloft with sprinkling pots and water window boxes on dusty days.  
The veterans of future wars have only three years to go in order to catch up to their trade-mark.  
(Copyright, 1934, Distributed by Universal Service)

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(Continued on Page 2, Column 2)

5-17-36  
7 Note article - self ex. - story -

This Effinger should be arrested -  
German Race supremacy dream  
but the Government of the  
United States and put the German  
Race and German Language on top.

You are doing good work - but  
that's peanuts to that - Enlarge  
your scope - if necessary you will  
find millions ready to help in  
your work of ferreting out the  
underhand Enemies of the Government  
of the U.S. and the institutions of  
the United States.

RECORDED 61-7398-56  
INDEXED

They should be authorized to be  
harassed out and their property  
or properties confiscated.

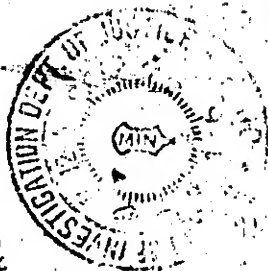
P.S.

Your Bureau and Department  
should be absolutely Science  
and Professional - no political or  
non partisan worker of party over people

ENCLOSURE JUN 2 1936

as after: Both parties  
1st interest is in the loyalty  
and maintenance of the liberty  
and institutions of the Nation  
and Land - and the better  
and more disciplined  
government system the  
better irrespective who  
or what leader is head of  
the Ministry or Cabinet rank  
or position - So More Science  
More Permanence -  
something like military  
best government and rule.

Same.



JUN 2 1936 PM

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE

JUN 1 3 59 PM 1936

FILED SECTION

RECEIVED



182



Department of Justice  
Attention of Big Chief  
Mr. Hoover  
Washington - D.C.

or at least  
personal personal of first secretary  
to Mr. Chief



TO LEAVE YOU

I'M CERTAIN IT'S MY COMPLEXION THAT'S  
MADE BOB SO ADORING. LUCKY FOR ME  
I LEARNED HOW TO GUARD AGAINST  
COSMETIC SKIN. LUX TOILET SOAP'S ACTIVE  
LATHER REMOVES COSMETICS THOROUGHLY

Superior

it's Soft-Still

Mix your drinks with Seagram's Gin and  
they'll be good to the last sip. "Soft-  
Still" retains the flavor to the last  
even when mixed with 16 parts water.

Superior Distilled  
London Dry Gin  
4/5 QTS. \$1.48  
Code No. 3172  
12c PINT  
No. 3170



GIN BOY  
GIN-GLES

What water does to fire—  
What sugar does to tea—  
What soft words do to ire—  
What rain does to a tree—  
What sunshine does to flowers—  
What milk does to a Quin—  
Is just the clearest way to tell  
What "Soft-Still" does to gin!

SAY  
Seagram's

# Firemen Save Woman From Gas in Home

Mrs. Carrie Baker, 57, 1405  
Hunters ave., narrowly escaped  
death from asphyxiation today in  
the basement of her home when  
gas hose became disconnected.  
She was found unconscious by a  
neighbor, who called police. Fire  
rescue squad No. 1 responded and  
worked three hours before reviving  
her. She is recovering in Huron  
Road hospital.

# Window Cleaners Union Spurred by Officials

The Window Cleaners' union to-  
day prepared for a revival of ac-  
tivities at a meeting with interna-  
tional union officers.  
President Jerry Hohan and Vice  
President Thomas J. Burke of Chi-  
cago, who recently named Dillard  
G. Bowles as Ohio representative,  
were to meet with members at 8  
tonight in Meat Trades temple, 1000  
Walnut ave.

characterized members of 1  
ganization as hard, but den  
legion had any official con  
with flogging and murder.

# Explains Ains

We have 3,000,000 membe  
have taken an oath to do  
work, to begin where the K  
Klan left off, and Amer  
America Effinger declared  
"We're against all enemies  
established government,"  
continued, "We have nothing  
against Catholic laymen,"  
are at war with the Catho  
archy.

We have nothing agains  
as individuals, but we wan  
to remember they were pe  
to come into this country  
tation, and they must act as  
should.

# Strong in Cleveland

We are not fighting the  
people, but we are here to  
it that they are not put in  
tion of authority over whit  
Asked about activities  
Black Legion in Cleveland,  
said:

The legion has wide s  
strength in Cleveland. "I  
was strong in Cleveland,  
legion is stronger than t  
because there is no racket  
Bear in mind that the  
hooded members aren't kn  
name at all, but by numbe  
He flatly refused to div  
names of Cleveland leader  
Black Legion.

It was disclosed that  
Smith, 55, a farmer livi  
Waynesfield, Auglaize cou  
miles south of Effinger's ho

# Roosevelt I Leader Before

President Roosevelt was  
here today as the leader  
organizations and liberal g  
a liberal "united front" du  
coming presidential campa

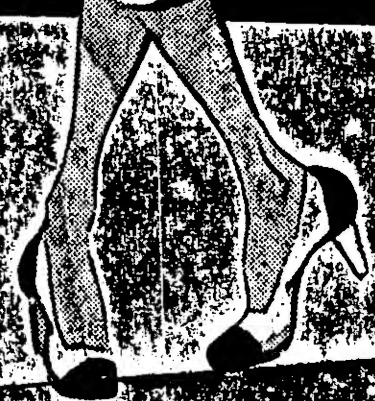
That position was given  
Major George L. Berry,  
Labor's Non-Partisan Lea  
the Re-election of Presiden  
velt, in addressing the  
biennial convention of the  
mated Clothing Workers  
ica in public music hall.

Major Berry, who is als  
co-ordinator for industrial  
tion and head of the Inte  
Printing Pressmen and a  
union, said the league has  
a bureau of 4,000 speakers  
bain for Mr. Roosevelt's  
tion.

Fight Reactionary Forces  
We intend to lead the  
against the reactionary forces  
influence is large, some  
moderate with the Amer  
measured by Amer

problems  
Everything  
smart fashions to  
make your holi-  
day a success!  
And we'll do  
everything to  
make our terms  
convenient for  
you!

61-7398-51



**WHITE SUITS**

In single and double-breasted styles with plain or action backs.

\$8.95

**WHITE COATS**

In free-swinging swaggers, box coats and dressy types. At

\$8.95, \$14.95 and \$19.75

**TUB CROCKS**

In attractively styled in smart, new fast color materials.

\$1.50 to \$3.95

**Washable SILKS**

and cottons. Very good-looking sports and dressy styles. Unusual values at

\$4.95 and up

**PALM BEACH**

Suits. Tailored of genuine Palm Beach cloth. Exclusively styled.

\$16.95

All Remaining Spring Coats and Suits Have Been Graciously Reduced! Buy Now and Save!

**Your own terms**

**FUR STORAGE!** Your fur or cloth coat stored and insured for only 2% of your own valuation. Minimum charge \$1.50. Add the cost to your account.

We Specialize In

**Rosebloom's**

Complete Selection



JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

General Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

May 28, 1936.

Time - 10:20 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: <sup>0</sup> Black Legion.

17

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Mr. Nathan   | ✓ |
| Mr. Tolson   | ✓ |
| Mr. Baughman |   |
| Chief Clerk  |   |
| Mr. Clegg    |   |
| Mr. Coffey   |   |
| Mr. Edwards  |   |
| Mr. Egan     |   |
| Mr. Foxworth |   |
| Mr. Harbo    |   |
| Mr. Joseph   |   |
| Mr. Keith    |   |
| Mr. Lester   |   |
| Mr. Quinn    |   |
| Mr. Schilder |   |
| Mr. Tamm     |   |
| Mr. Tracy    |   |
| Miss Gandy   |   |

Assistant Attorney General Jackson telephoned me and said this morning a lawyer friend of his in New York City telephoned and said that he had some information to offer relative to the above matter, and if the Federal Government is going to enter the case, he wanted to furnish it to us, but if only the State authorities were to investigate the case, he would want to furnish the information to them.

I advised Mr. Jackson that in the absence of any indication of a Federal violation in this matter, the Bureau is conducting no investigation whatsoever. Consequently, the Bureau would not be interested in the information which his friend in New York has to offer.

Respectfully,

  
E. A. TAMM.

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